

Authority, and TU Electric & Gas. In addition, ESCO members include affiliates of ConEdison, Pepco Energy Services, Constellation, PP&L, DMJM Harris and Direct Energy. Prominent national and regional independent members include Custom Energy, NORESO, Onsite Energy, EnergySolve, Ameresco, UCONS, Chevron Energy Solutions, Synergy Companies, Wendel Energy Services, WESCO and Energy Systems Group. NAESCO member companies have been delivering energy efficiency projects to residential, commercial, institutional and industrial customers across the country for the past twenty years.

The companies we represent are developing and deploying a wide range of innovative clean energy technologies, utilizing domestic biomass, wind, solar energy, geothermal power, fuel cells, energy efficient technologies and services, and much, much more. By 2025, these technologies could provide electric power equal to half of all the electricity that our country uses today. By 2030, our industries could replace 30% to 40% of the petroleum our country now imports. By doing so, our industries could make a significant contribution to curbing global warming pollution, enhancing our nation's energy security, and creating up to 5 million new jobs by 2025.

However, to achieve these goals, we must find enough qualified, trained people to design, manufacture, install, operate, and maintain a host of innovative renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. Across the country, our companies experience workforce shortages as one of the key barriers to growth. Indeed, a recent literature review from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) identified the shortage of skills and training as a leading non-technical barrier to renewable energy and energy efficiency growth.

We believe that the \$100 million dollars authorized by the Sanders-Clinton Amendment is urgently needed to develop national and state skill training programs that will prepare workers technically for our emerging industries, as well as to analyze market trends and demonstrate best practices. While the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries use many skills that can be transferred from other sectors, in many other cases, our companies require specific, new skills to take maximum advantage of the newer energy technologies. By establishing a pilot program specifically geared toward the renewable energy and efficiency industries, the Sanders-Clinton Amendment would enable us to build the workforce our industries need to achieve their maximum potential.

Our companies stand ready to help our country with new energy technologies that will make us all more secure, curb the threat of global warming, and create economic opportunity for millions of working Americans. We urge you to vote "yes" on the Clinton-Sanders Amendment as a crucial step toward achieving these vital objectives.

Sincerely,

DONALD D. GILLIGAN,
President.

CENTER FOR AMERICAN
PROGRESS ACTION FUND,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2007.

Senator BERNARD SANDERS,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Wash-
ington, DC.

Senator HILLARY CLINTON,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS SANDERS AND CLINTON: I write to express my strong support for the proposed Sanders-Clinton Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program that will be offered as an amendment

to the upcoming energy bill, and to encourage other Senators to join in support of this provision as co-sponsors. This is a critically important energy and jobs measure that will help to ensure both America's future energy and economic security.

As our nation confronts the twin challenges of our escalating energy dependence and a mounting climate crisis, we are presented by a remarkable opportunity to meet these pressing demands with new more efficient and ever cleaner sources of energy. This "energy opportunity" represents a chance to rebuild our communities, to better train our workers, and to reinvest in the basic infrastructure of the nation. This amendment takes a significant step forward in meeting the practical need to ensure that American firms and workers have the cutting edge skills to participate in the growing market for clean and efficient energy, and to capture the jobs of the future.

Even as wind and solar energy experience explosive annual growth rates, the utility industry is facing retirement of half its workers within the decade, while the National Renewable Energy Lab has identified a shortage of skilled workers as a major barrier to deployment of renewable and efficient energy. This amendment strategically invests \$100,000,000 dollars into a more robust labor market and skills training that will prepare up to 30,000 workers to jump start these booming industries that America invented. This is a smart investment in a safer, more prosperous, and more competitive U.S. economy.

By enhancing the workforce investment system, and working with state governments, non-profit community groups, and both labor and management, this amendment offers an efficient path forward for the American economy. Targeting workers displaced by shifting energy policies, enhanced skills for returning veterans, pathways out of poverty for those most in need of work, and a reliable labor market for both small business and heavy industry represents a sound investment in the future. This amendment will help build a state of the art economy and expand markets for renewable energy, good jobs in construction and building trades, and job security for the U.S. auto industry. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. The Center for American Progress Action Fund salutes your vision, and offers its full support for this important measure.

Sincerely,

JOHN D. PODESTA,
President and CEO.

JUNE 11, 2007.

Re support the Sanders-Clinton amendment on worker training for the clean energy economy.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: As representatives of the environmental, energy efficiency, and clean energy advocacy communities, we urge you to vote for an amendment to the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007 (S. 1419) that will train working Americans for high-skilled jobs in the emerging, clean energy economy. Sponsored by Senators Sanders and Clinton, the amendment would create an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Workforce Training Program at the Department of Labor to train workers in the skills our country needs to make the most of new investments in clean, renewable energy and energy-saving technologies.

As Congress advances programs to enhance our energy security and address global warming, workforce shortages have emerged as one of the top barriers to the new energy

economy. Indeed, a 2006 study from the National Renewable Energy Lab identified a shortage of skills and training as a leading barrier to renewable energy and energy efficiency growth.

The program established by the Sanders-Clinton Amendment would help ensure that our nation develops the best models for training workers in the new skills required to properly manufacture, install, maintain, and operate clean energy technologies. Grant funding under the program could, for instance, train wind-industry workers in such new skills as turbine siting, airfoil repair, and weather patterns that affect turbine performance. Investments in training of building maintenance workers, superintendents, and engineers could improve the operations of sophisticated heating and cooling systems by as much as 10 percent, saving millions in energy costs each year in large public, industrial, or commercial buildings.

Of crucial importance, the Sanders-Clinton amendment provides working Americans with a clear pathway to earn a family-supporting livelihood in the emerging, new energy economy. We enthusiastically embrace this amendment for signaling that America is, at last, ready to replace the old debate of "jobs vs. the environment" by investing in "jobs for the environment."

Thank you for considering our request to co-sponsor this vital amendment. If you have any questions about this legislation, please feel free to contact Jessica Maher in Sen. Sanders' office.

Sincerely,

KATERI CALLAHAN,
*President, Alliance to
Save Energy.*

BILL PRINDLE,
*Acting Executive Di-
rector, American
Council for an En-
ergy-Efficient Econ-
omy.*

DAVID ZWICK,
*President, Clean
Water Action.*

VAWTER PARKER,
*Executive Director,
Earthjustice.*

FRANCES BEINECKE,
*President, Natural Re-
sources Defense
Council.*

JOAN CLAYBROOK,
*President, Public Cit-
izen.*

CARL POPE,
*Executive Director, Si-
erra Club*

KEVIN KNOBLOCH,
*President, Union of
Concerned Sci-
entists.*

JUNE 11, 2007.

Re business leaders urge vote for Sanders-Clinton amendment to promote workforce training for a new energy economy.

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: As business associations representing hundreds of leading companies working to build a new clean energy economy, we strongly urge you to vote "yes" on an amendment to the Energy Savings Act of 2007 (SB 1321) that will be vital to our nation's energy security and to the fight against global warming. Offered by Senators Sanders and Clinton, the Amendment would establish an Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Workforce Training Program at the Department of Labor to ensure our country trains the workforce needed to ensure continued robust growth of a new, clean energy industry.